

Pakistan to probe army chief's death

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Monday ordered an official inquiry into allegations by the widow of former army chief General Asif Nawaz that her husband was poisoned in a political murder last January. The general's widow Nuzhat made the charge on Sunday, but she did not say exactly how her husband was killed or by whom. Mr. Sharif named three judges of the supreme court to form the inquiry commission and submit their report within a month, state-run television said. Several opposition politicians campaigning for the ouster of Mr. Sharif urged President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to order an inquiry. Gen. Nawaz, 56, died last January of a heart attack during early morning exercises at his home in Rawalpindi, headquarters of Pakistan's powerful military. "I am sure that this unnatural death was a political assassination," Nuzhat told a news conference on Sunday. She said she was considering whether to bring charges but declined to say against whom. Her husband's refusal to become involved in politics had made enemies among politicians for army backing, she said.

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Arab delegates discuss Libyan crisis

CAIRO (AP) — Arab League permanent representatives Monday discussed Arab efforts to resolve Libya's crisis with the West. Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the 21-member organisation, said they discussed recent efforts by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia to end air travel, arms sales and diplomatic sanctions imposed on Libya a year ago. Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters that the United Nations' decision to renew the sanctions for a period of three months without escalating them gives Arabs a chance to mediate the crisis. He said the league would try to arrange for the handing over of two suspects indicted by the United States and Britain for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Sudan pardons women prisoners

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist military government paid fines and pardoned 250 female convicts who completed training for Sudan's Popular Defence Forces militia. The women, shown on television Sunday night leaving Al Zahra's camp, named for a daughter of the Prophet Mohammad, were convicted of adultery, dealing in alcoholic beverages and theft. A television report said some non-Muslims among them had converted in the camp. The government offices that collects the zakat said it would pay the women's fines totaling 1.4 million Sudanese pounds (\$14,000). Interior Minister Abdul Rahim Mohammad Hussein said the group constituted the first batch of women "repentants," implying more will undergo the course later. About 200 male prisoners were pardoned last year under the same programme after the government paid their fines and blood money to relatives of killers' victims.

Kurdish rebels to extend ceasefire

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Kurdish rebels will extend a 26-day ceasefire due to expire Thursday, Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani was quoted as saying Monday. Mr. Talabani won agreement for an extension in talks with the leader of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a statement from the Ankara office of Mr. Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said. "Mr. Talabani informed us that he held a meeting with Mr. Abdullah Ocalan, PPK leader, and convinced him to renew the ceasefire which will expire on April 15," the statement said. It said Mr. Ocalan would announce the extension this week after consulting the rest of the PPK leadership.

Saudis 'satisfied' with Thai probe

BANGKOK (AP) — Relations with Saudi Arabia are improving as Thai officials make progress in investigations of unsolved theft and murder cases, the foreign minister said Monday. Prince Mohammad Ben Nawab Ben Abdul Aziz arrived Sunday to check on police investigations of the Bangkok murder of four Saudi embassy employees in 1989 and 1990, the disappearance in 1990 of a Saudi businessman, and a Thai worker's 1989 theft of royal jewelry in Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Prasong Soon-siri, who met with the prince over lunch for 90 minutes, said later the prince was satisfied with progress in the investigations. Prince Mohammad declined to be interviewed.

Thousands attend Suez funeral

SUEZ (AP) — Tens of thousands of mourners marched in Monday's funeral of the highest-ranking police officer killed in a protracted, violent campaign by Muslim militants to take power in Egypt. Major General Mohammad Al Shehri, 53, gunned down Sunday, was deputy security chief in Assiut, a centre of Islamic fundamentalism 320 kilometres south of Cairo. Four suspected Muslim extremists ambushed his car Sunday as it pulled out of a police station in Abu Tig, near Assiut, and fatally shot Shehri, his driver and bodyguard.



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An Israeli soldier Monday checks passengers in a bus at the northern entrance to Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Continued siege creates hardship for Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — With the Palestinian economy losing \$3 million a day from Israel's closure of the occupied territories, the first signs of hunger may appear soon, a Palestinian economist said Monday.

Israel's government Sunday adopted proposals by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to keep the West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed indefinitely and sharply cut the number of Palestinian labourers in Israel.

The government decided Sunday to funnel an unspecified amount of assistance to unemployed Palestinians and develop a programme to create jobs. One minister said 488 million shekels (\$177 million) would be invested in creating jobs in 1993.

Mr. Rabin believes the separation of the two peoples is needed to curb violence and win public support in Israel for peace talks with the Palestinians.

But Palestinian peace negotiators warned Monday that the closure is further eroding popular support among the Palestinians for negotiations with Israel.

"With the closure, they placed another obstacle in front of the peace talks," said Samir Abdallah, an economist and member of the Palestinian negotiating team.

"It's ink on paper," said Muhammed Latif, 33. "In normal conditions, when Arabs wanted to start shops and went to an Israeli bank for a loan, they didn't get any help."

Mr. Latif has been caught in an ironical trap. He owns a carpentry shop in the West Bank village of Hizma, but the only road to it is through Jerusalem so he cannot go to work.

He is a father of six and also

supports his mother. His family was among those driven out of Lyddia in 1948 by the Israeli army under the command of Mr. Rabin, then a young officer.

Yehya Atuki, 25, also a carpenter, is blocked from going to the Israeli-owned shop he worked for in Jerusalem. He said he is already starting to economise on food.

"I have one boy. Others have many boys. They need to buy milk for the children," he said. "It just gets worse."

Mr. Abdallah, the economist, estimated there would be first signs of hunger in two or three weeks, noting that Palestinians have used up most of their reserves in the many strikes and closures of the more than five-year revolt against the occupation.

Last week, Israeli economist Ezra Sadan warned of impending disaster. "The Palestinian economy may overcome six or eight weeks, using up savings. But eventually it will come to a catastrophe in Gaza," Mr. Sadan said.

Two government ministers voted against the Rabin proposals, saying they backed separation in principle but that plans for aiding the Palestinians were too vague.

"In a week or two the flour sack will be empty and you have a situation which is dangerous to us

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians on final sprint for Washington talks on April 20

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinians began a final sprint Monday to take their place at resumed Middle East peace talks with Israel in Washington next week.

"We are putting the final touches on a decision," said Faiz Al Husseini, the Palestinian leader from Arab East Jerusalem likely to be accepted by Israel as a member of the negotiating team instead of backstage coordinator.

This week will see a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian Minister Hosni Mubarak and a Arab foreign ministers' session in Lebanon to nudge the talks back on track in time for next Tuesday's planned Washington round.

Mr. Husseini said: "We want to go to."

But he added: "The decision has not yet been taken. We need to clarify some questions."

A Palestinian team is going to Washington Tuesday for preparatory talks with the United States administration. The team will be headed by Haidar Abdul Shafi, chief of the Palestinian negotiating team, Mr. Husseini said.

Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was to hold talks in Cairo with Mr. Mubarak before the Egyptian leader's meeting with Mr. Rabin in Egypt on Wednesday, he added.

Although the PLO has not yet formally announced Palestinian willingness to attend the new round of Washington talks, it is expected to approve their participation in negotiations stalled by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said an Arab coordination meeting to decide whether to return to the talks would resume in Damascus Friday (see separate story).

Mr. Husseini said in an interview with Israeli army radio on Saturday that the Palestinians were no longer demanding the return of all the exiles as a condition to returning to the negotiations — frequently described by the United States as the last train for peace.

"We work for an immediate return of all deportees, those at Marj Al Zohour or those expelled after (the Arab-Israeli war of

1967, which could start by steps," he said Monday.

Palestinian expellees in Lebanon said they were relying on Syria to prevent the talks resuming before Israel allowed them back.

"We hold Syria responsible because we consider it the heavyweight in the region," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, leader of the 396 stranded in South Lebanon.

"We believe that Syria can put pressure to change the stand of the Palestinian delegation and influence the decision of the (Arab) frontline states," he said.

"We urge it (Syria) to use its pressuring role so that it will not allow Israel and America to execute their plan directed against the innocent sons of the Palestinian people," Dr. Rantisi told reporters at the exiles' makeshift tent camp.

Dr. Rantisi said the exiles expected nothing from the meeting Wednesday between President Mubarak and Mr. Rabin.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel dangles bait, page 2

U.S. ready to restore Iraq ties if U.N. demands met

DUBAI (R) — The commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, General Joseph Hoar, was quoted Monday as saying Washington would restore ties with Iraq if it met Gulf war-related resolutions.

But he said Iraq still had to destroy all weapons of mass destruction, repatriate prisoners of war and pay compensation for damages incurred by its invasion of Kuwait.

Gen. Hoar replaced General Norman Schwarzkopf after the Gulf war as commander of the U.S. forces in the Middle East.

The United States said planes patrolling Iraq's northern "no-fly" zone dropped four cluster bombs in response to ground fire on Friday. Iraq denied shooting at the planes and called the raid a complete surprise.

The general, in Qatar for routine contacts with the Gulf country's leaders, said it was his initial impression that the alleged shooting was an isolated incident.

He declined to speculate on how the United States would react in the event of any further Iraqi shootings.

Kuwait claims more than 600 of its citizens are still missing since Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war and it believes they are being held by Baghdad.

Gen. Hoar said Washington

would reduce its military presence in the region if Iraq met the U.N. demands.

He said the United States had only three warships and a group of aircraft" in the Gulf.

On Sunday, Gen. Hoar told Reuters that firing by U.S. jets at an Iraqi military position in northern Iraq two days earlier was "perhaps an isolated incident," Washington said the jets were fired at from the ground.

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The bombing near Saddam Dam, about 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, was the first incident of its kind since Feb. 3, when French Mirage jets patrolling the zone came under fire.

Representatives of two dozen countries planned to focus on environmental measures in the United States and the European Community (EC), which include tax proposals aimed at reducing the use of carbon fuels by adding to their cost.

But that issue was overshadowed by conflict within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries over quotas set for the spring quarter to help avert a price war.

Independent surveys have measured OPEC production in March at 700,000 barrels a day above the ceiling of 23.6 million set by the 12 OPEC ministers.

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Israel dangles bait to draw Palestinians to peace talks

By Jack Redden
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israel is dangling powerful bait at the Palestinians to lure them back to Middle East peace talks.

The offer is new hope of negotiators on the future of Jerusalem, the world's most fought over piece of real estate.

Israeli cabinet ministers insist that sudden willingness to let Faisal Al Husseini, the leader from Arab East Jerusalem, join the talks unchanged Israel's position that its "claim" to all the city is not open to bargaining.

But the significance of including a native of Jerusalem was not lost on Palestinians — or members of the previous Likud government of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who refused to negotiate with any Jerusalem Palestinians.

"If we can include someone from Jerusalem, Faisal in particular, this would be a breakthrough," said Sari Nusseibeh, a philosophy professor working with the Palestinian delegation head whose family has been in Jerusalem for centuries.

New prominence for Mr. Husseini, along with the return of a few dozen Palestinians exiled in past years, could be enough to end the impasse created by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December and clear the way for peace talks to resume in Washington next Monday.

A deal could emerge late this week after a flurry of meetings by all countries involved.

Full participation by the patrician Husseini — he has been directing the team from outside the talks — will be a constant reminder that Palestinians want the eastern half of the city as the capital of a future independent state.

Hardliner Shamir had refused to let any Palestinian from Arab East Jerusalem



Faisal Husseini

into the negotiations, fearing it would raise questions over Israel's "claim" to the land it seized and immediately annexed in 1967.

The United States, which with almost all countries refuses to recognise Israeli "sovereignty" over Arab East Jerusalem, went along with Mr. Shamir because the final status of Jerusalem promised to be one of the most intractable disputes.

Arab East Jerusalem is the economic, political and religious centre of Palestinian life. It is vital to any Palestinian entity — you cannot drive from the north of the occupied West Bank to the south without crossing Jerusalem.

But Jerusalem is central to Judaism. Israel has moved aggressively since seizing the city to make withdrawal impossible. Jerusalem's boundaries were extended and Jewish settlements sprang up on the new land to encircle the Arab area.

The concept of Jerusalem has also taken on a broader sweep. Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin talks of a "greater Jerusalem" that would sprawl across the great

swathe of occupied land being developed as Jewish dormitory zones.

"Jerusalem will remain united as the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres maintained when asked the implications of Mr. Husseini's enhanced role. "This is not going to be changed."

In reality, East Jerusalem is a city under occupation. The separation of the two sides is almost as stark as the pre-1967 days when Jerusalem was split between Jordan and Israel.

Few Arabs venture into the Jewish half, even fewer Jews wander Arab streets. A major road opened this month along the old "green line" that once separated the city. It carries Israelis to settlements built since 1967 and sweeps past the Arab heart of East Jerusalem.

Officially, the future of Jerusalem will remain off the table at this stage, which is to negotiate a five-year period of limited self-rule — "autonomy" — for the nearly two million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The future of Jerusalem and its 140,000 Arabs — almost all rejecting Israeli citizenship — will not come up until a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement is negotiated starting in the third year of autonomy.

The prospect of Mr. Husseini, the epitome of the Palestinian elite in Jerusalem, debating the shape of autonomy alarms Israeli hardliners. They fear it brings closer the day of bargaining on Jerusalem.

"We will be negotiating with a Palestinian leader who is a Jerusalemite and in the eyes of the Arabs — whether Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian wherever — that we started here this day negotiating on Jerusalem," said Elihu Ben-Elissar, a member of the right-wing Likud party.

"We hope the speedy cessation of fighting in the area will make such a position unnecessary," Mr. Rafsanjani added.

He did not say what the position might be but he stressed Tehran's neutrality and Iran was ready to help any effort for a peaceful solution between the two ex-Soviet republics.

"Attacking and occupying a country's territory is never a logical means for a lasting solution to conflict," Mr. Rafsanjani said, pointing to Tehran's demand for an Armenian withdrawal.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the flare-up of fighting increased the risk of outside interference in the conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh which has killed more than 2,500 people since 1988.

Mr. Guseinov arrived in Tehran Sunday to seek help after Armenian forces seized some 10 per cent of Azeri territory west and south of the mainly Armenian populated Nagorno-Karabakh.

He left Tehran after the meeting with Mr. Rafsanjani in which he delivered a message from Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey.

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Home News



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday visits a patient at Zarqa Government Hospital (Petra photo)

Princess Basma inspects health, social services

ZARQA (Petra) — In pursuing her charity programme around the Kingdom, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday inspected services in Zarqa, Irbid and Kura governorates.

At Zarqa Government Hospital, the Princess met with officials to discuss medical needs and improvements.

The hospital offers medical services to nearly 750,000 people in the Zarqa governorate and is in need of expansion and new equipment, particularly for kidney dialysis treatment, the Princess was told by Dr. Mamoud Abbadi and Zarqa Deputy Abdulla Rahim Ekor.

The paediatric wing was one of the sections inspected by the Princess, who enquired about the patients' needs.

Deputy Abdulla Qader Gamur and Deputy Salameh Ghitweiri met with Princess Basma who is also the Honorary Chairperson of

(Koran), indicated that the movement's principles are intermingled with the Arabism-Islamism dimension and is based on the democracy and Shura principles.

It adopts the Islamic economic system "since we consider it as the best system to be implemented," he added.

Over three years, since the founding members of ADIM decided to form such a party with progressive Islamic thinking, the party's members told the Jordan Times that the Muslim Brotherhood was distributing brochures in which it criticised their principles and objectives.

He said that the attacks occurred more often recently, but refused to elaborate.

"We aim at forming a national, Islamic front with progressive concepts that would implement the Islamic Sharia (Islamic law) in a modern manner," said Marwan Soudah, a Christian member of the ADIM executive committee.

Mr. Soudah, who criticised present Islamic movements which adopt regressive methods of analysis of the Holy Book

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince confers medal on Pakistani general

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday conferred upon Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Air Force General Farouq Khan the military Iftiqar Medal of the First Order. At a meeting with him and the accompanying delegation at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan also reviewed with the Pakistani general bilateral relations between Jordan and Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, the chief of staff of the air force, and the King's Advisor Ihsan Shurdum.

Jordan takes 2nd prize in Doha fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian pavilion at Qatar International Tours Fair won the second prize at the fair which concluded in Doha Sunday. The results of the fair were announced Monday by Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah at a ceremony organised to distribute awards to participants in the fair who come from 17 Arab and foreign countries. The first place was taken by the Qatari pavilion. Also the Royal Jordanian (RJ) folklore troupe won meritorial awards for its daily performances at the fair's theatre. The Jordanian pavilion was opened April 6 by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Yanal Hikmat.

University to employ students

AMMAN (Petra) — In an effort to provide financial support to university students, the Applied Sciences University Sunday took a decision allowing university students to work 15 hours a week against a payment of 600 fils per hour. Students will be working in the library, cafeteria, agricultural activities, maintenance and painting, shops and any other areas the university might deem fit.

Dentistry conference opens Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The 11th Jordanian dentists conference will open Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman under the motto "Developments in Clinical Dental Health." The three-day conference, organised by the Jordanian Dentists Association, will deal with issues related to dental surgeries, diseases and preventive medicine and the uses of laser in dentistry. Dentists from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Germany and the United Kingdom will participate in the conference.

Jordan-Oman panel to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — A Joint Jordanian-Omani committee will meet in Amman April 18 under the co-chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and his Omani counterpart Maqbool Ben Ali Sultan. The committee will discuss in its several-day meetings scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Oman in industrial, commercial, and touristic fields.

20th Arab labour conference ends on optimistic note

By Samiha Ghoshesh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 20th Arab Labour Conference, which officially ended Monday, depicted a sense of closeness between Arab countries not seen since the 1991 Gulf war. Most participants left the conference optimistic about achieving some form of economic cooperation between the Arab countries.

"The progress the conference achieved cannot be considered insignificant, bearing in mind that it seemed unattainable at a certain point in time," said Abdul Karim Al Kababri, Jordan's Minister of Labour and head of the conference, told the closing session of the week-long meeting.

Although Mr. Kababri described the conference as a "major success," he stressed that efforts must continue to be exerted in the same direction and open dialogue must be promoted as a way of communication.

Director General of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Baker Mahmoud Rasoul de-

scribed the atmosphere of the conference as "brotherly and honest."

The meetings reviewed topics regarding Arab labour strategy, working women and development, the freedom of unions in the Arab World, and the work environment including health and security.

Also discussed was the situation of the Palestinians living in the Israeli occupied territories.

The final statement of the conference included a call on Arab countries to lift restrictions on the transfer of funds collected from Palestinian expatriate workers as "liberation tax."

"The 'liberation tax' — five per cent of the annual earnings of the expatriates — used to be collected by the host governments and transferred to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until the Gulf crisis, which strained the PLO's relations with most of the oil-rich Gulf states.

The tax continued to be collected, but the host governments have made it difficult for the transfer of the funds to the PLO.

Participants in the conference

insisted on decreasing unemployment among youth and the educated through training.

They, additionally, suggested providing jobs for them in special projects and financially supporting their small businesses.

The need for coordination between educational and training institutions on the one hand, and the needs of the current and future job markets on the other, was also highlighted as one of the points in the Arab labour strategy.

In addition, the strategy calls for providing employment opportunities first to one's own citizens, but encouraged the Arab countries to also employ Arab guest labour and to ease the restrictions imposed by the host country.

The Arab labour strategy also emphasised the need to reduce high rates of unemployment that are present in many Arab countries and to allocate a percentage of the aid coming into the country for projects that increase employment.

Participants in the conference

insisted on decreasing unemployment among youth and the educated through training.

They, additionally, suggested providing jobs for them in special projects and financially supporting their small businesses.

The conference also decided to carry out studies on the labour and market situations and to increase cooperation in the institutions of the Arab Labour Organisation.

Increasing Arab investments in the Arab World was also stressed.

The Arab Labour Conference discussed a separate report entitled "The Arab Working Woman and Development," stressing the need to improve the conditions of working women in the Arab World.

The conference affirmed the need to research the status of working women and the difficulties they face in coping with the demands of work and family.

It called for holding a lecture that includes the government and private sector and labour to study how to improve the status of women at work, at home and in society.

In addition, the conference stressed the need to pay attention to the working Palestinian women who are resisting the

Israeli occupation forces and fulfilling their family duties.

The delegates also focused on improving the position of women who live in rural areas as well as those who are handicapped.

The conference appealed to the ALO to research the rights and freedoms of unions in the Arab World and requested that the Arab governments ratify the agreement regarding this issue.

The delegates, further, agreed to include a workshop in the 21st Arab Labour Conference to discuss this topic in detail.

Instituting on protecting the work environment from pollution and safety hazards, the delegates stated that it is the responsibility of the public and private sectors.

Moreover, they emphasised the need to establish research centres focusing on this issue.

Reviewing and ratifying the budget of the ALO and electing its officials were also main points on the agenda of the conference.

The 21st Arab Labour Conference will be held in Cairo, home of the ALO, in April, 1994.

Muslim Brotherhood bloc blasts UNRWA for 'conspiracy to liquidate Palestine problem'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Monday attacked what it said was a decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees to reduce its health, Medical Food and educational services to the Palestinian refugees.

"While the Palestinian people under Israeli rule continue to face brutal and inhuman treatment at the hands of the Israeli authorities, the Palestinians in the diaspora face an arbitrary action by UNRWA," the statement said adding that "the action was part of a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestine problem."

According to the statement UNRWA said Sunday that it plans to levy token charges for health, and part of education services it offers to the refugees in Jordan and said the move was aimed at addressing the estimated \$28.5 million deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget for 1993.

Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan Sunday said "there will not be any reduction of UNRWA services, but there will not be any increases either."

The Muslim Brotherhood Bloc

demanded that care and services to the refugees continue until the Palestinians have been repatriated because, it said, this is a right guaranteed by all U.N. resolutions particularly Resolution 194.

UNRWA said Sunday that it

plans to levy token charges for health, and part of education services it offers to the refugees in Jordan and said the move was aimed at addressing the estimated \$28.5 million deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget for 1993.

"We denounce such statements which only encourage the enemy to pursue its repressive and brutal measures," the statement said.

It said the parties making such statements seem to have forgotten that Israel has, to date disregarded all U.N. Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 799 calling for the repatriation of the Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon by Israel nearly five months ago.

In the same statement, the bloc

condemned Israel's decision to keep the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed indefinitely as "a most brutal and repressive act against the Palestinian people."

We are addressing this statement to the Security Council and the United States government which has been bragging about its concern over human rights, said the statement.

"The United States," added the statement "has been claiming it supports democracy and freedom everywhere in the world, but it tends to close its ears to the cries of the repressed Muslims and Arabs everywhere."

Amman, Muscat to join in social development

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman Monday exchanged documents of understanding for collaborations in social development.

The documents, which were exchanged by Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh and Omani Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ahmad Ben Mohamad Al Eisa'i, provide for cooperation between Muscat and Amman expertise, visits by officials concerned with promoting family services, and caring for the handicapped, orphans and the elderly.

The agreement also provides for Jordan to offer training to officials from the Omani

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

It entails exchanging Omani-Jordanian views on the creation of joint ventures pertaining to social services and the utilisation of human resources in social work.

Jordan will offer Oman five student scholarships for study at the Princess Rahma Social Affairs Training College in Amman.

The college offers training in social services and special education.

Sheikh Eissa'i, who attended the recently concluded Arab Labour Conference, held extensive talks with Dr. Mashaqbeh and toured a number of ministry affiliated organisations in Jordan.

RJ delegates return from Beirut meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Executive Officer and President of the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), Mahmoud Jamal Balqez returned to Amman Monday after heading RJ's delegation to the meetings of the 26th session of the Arab Air Transport Federation which convened in Beirut recently.

The loan, granted on easy terms, has been used to finance imports from Belgium, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade sources.

Jordan's economy was hard hit as a result of the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq, the Kingdom's main trading partner before the Gulf crisis.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad has already discussed with the Belgian ambassador arrangements for the Jordanian-Belgian joint commission meeting which will take place between May 3 and 6, according to Mr. Muela-

neare.

The federation's general assembly also elected Adli Dajani as secretary general of the Arab Air Transport Federation for a third term.

It also agreed to move the general secretariat back to Beirut and to close the temporary offices which were used by it in Amman for the last six years.

Upon a recommendation by RJ, the general assembly decided to send a cable to the International Federation of Air Aviation to affirm that the international resolution on the status of the Arab Qalandia Airport in occupied Jerusalem would not be changed.

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Cabinet closer to sales tax law

(Continued from page 1)

various sectors have made considerable progress," said an official source. "All indications are that the tax could be introduced with effect from May 1, with the enactment of a temporary law."

The Constitution allows the implementation of legislation as temporary laws endorsed by a royal decree when Parliament is not in session. Such laws, however, are subject to Parliament approval as an when the legislative authority is convened.

Disputes over provisions of the legislation on sales tax are as intense between local importers and manufacturers as they are between the government and the private sector as a whole.

Local manufacturers, represented by the Chamber of Industry, are arguing that they will be banded down the heavier end of the deal since they will be facing severe competition from importers and making lesser profit under the law as drafted by the government.

They point out that the tax on imports will be calculated on the landed cost (cost, insurance and freight), while the levy on local products will be on the invoice value of products leaving the warehouse of the manufacturer.

As a remedy to address what they see as an imbalance, local manufacturers are calling on the government to levy the sales tax from importers on the basis of the total landed cost plus customs duties and related fees as well as an assumed profit on imported products.

"Our invoices to wholesale/retail outlets reflect the customs duties and other expenses as well as our profit margin," said the owner of a local manufacturing company.

"The importers will pay the tax only on their landed cost, and this would give them a competitive edge in terms of what the ultimate consumer pays," he argued.

Another bone of contention between the government and the private sector was removed when the Ministry of Finance and Customs agreed that the draft law will not automatically empower the cabinet to implement the "second stage" of the tax — conversion of sales tax into value added tax (VAT).

Under the VAT system, as it is in force in the West, sales

tax is collected from the consumer at the sales point.

Such a conversion is expected in five to seven years in Jordan, but, under the compromise, it will be implemented only by the enactment of a new law.

"This will ensure that there will be no surprises for the trade and industry sector," said Dr. Fanek, the economist.

More fundamentally, Ali Dajani, advisor to the Chamber of Industry, believes that the introduction of sales tax "is untimely," particularly that it comes at a time when Jordan's manufacturing sector needs strengthening.

According to Mr. Dajani, the whole system of consumption tax itself is not performing well and needs scrutiny to find where the flaws are.

"Our industries are in their infancy when compared with other countries," Mr. Dajani said. "Not only do they need protection of capital investment but also strong support to develop their export potential so that they can perform a strong role in building the economy."

Mr. Dajani argued that Jordanian industries have not performed up to the expected level of exports and, as such, the imposition of taxes in any form on local products in the local market will hurt them, particularly given some of the characteristics of Jordan's economy.

"Jordanian industries need a breathing space, having suffered two severe and consecutive blows since 1989," he said, referring to the 1988-1989 devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and the losses Jordan incurred as a result of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Indicators which show a strong performance of the economy, he said, are mostly based on activities in the construction sector and related industries rather than an overall reflection.

"The boom in the construction sector is a short-term phenomenon," he said.

Mr. Dajani said Jordanian industries were also at a disadvantage resulting from several other factors, including the devaluation of the dinar which made imported raw materials costlier, additional freight and insurance charges incurred as a result of international inspection of Jordan-bound cargo in the Red Sea, and a recent hike in port charges at Aqaba.

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Sudan pins hopes on Libya

(Continued from page 1)

"There is a very specific and very intentional effort by donors to deny us financial assistance not only on bilateral bases but also to lean on international bodies not to help Sudan," said Mr. Hamdi. He said that until 1989, half of Sudan's budget was financed by foreign aid.

Sudan has been politically and economically isolated since the government of Omar Hassan Al Bashir assumed power in a military coup in 1989. Arab aid stopped flowing in the aftermath of the Gulf war and Western aid was halted due to charges of human rights abuses and support for "terrorism."

American embassy sources in Khartoum told the Jordan Times that the U.S. would not resume aid to Sudan until it returns to civil rule and stops "widespread human rights violations."

In 1990, Sudan started an economic restructuring programme with the announced objective of reaching self-sufficiency. The programme included tough austerity measures and the lifting of subsidies which sent prices soaring.

Enhancing the performance of the agricultural sector was the major target of the programme. Mr. Hamdi said its success was reflected in the 15 to 17 per cent expected growth of the gross domestic product.

But while the area of agriculture has been expanded from 11 million to 33 million acres, low productivity is still a major problem.

"Although we have expanded agriculture tremendously... productivity is still very low," Mr. Hamdi said.

**Leading archaeologist says
Old Testament stories are fiction**

By David Keys

ABRAHAM, Jacob, Moses, King David, and King Solomon in all their splendour, never existed, a 15-year study of archaeological evidence has concluded.

The study — by Professor Thomas Thompson, one of the world's foremost authorities on biblical archaeology — says that the first 10 books of the Old Testament are almost certainly fiction, written between 500 and 1,500 years after the events they purport to describe.

Professor Thompson's claims, outlined in a new book, *The Early History of the Israelite People*, are being taken seriously by scholars.

The British Museum's leading expert on the archaeology of the Holy Land, Jonathan Tubb, said last week: "Professor Thompson may well be right in many of his arguments. His book is a work of tremendous scholarship. He has been meticulous in his research, and brave in expressing what many of us have thought intuitively for a long time but have been reticent in saying."

Professor Thompson — from Marquette University in Milwaukee — says that there is a complete absence of archaeological and historical evidence for many events portrayed in the

Bible. The inevitable conclusion, he argues, is that the Israelite exile in Egypt, the Exodus and the Israelite conquest of the Promised Land never took place.

Excavations have found no trace of a settled population around Judea and Jerusalem during the 10th century BC, when the Kingdom of David and Solomon was supposed to have flourished. A community that could have supported a kingdom did not form in Judea until at least a century later, Professor Thompson said. Jerusalem did not become a large and politically influential city until about 650 BC.

He added: "It is out of the question that Saul, David, and Solomon, as described in the Bible, could have existed. I think the biblical accounts are wonderful stories, invented at the time when Jerusalem was part of the Persian Empire in the 5th Century BC."

The Israelite nation, he believes, was a creation of the Persian Empire and was formed around 450 BC. But the people who moved to Jerusalem at that time were not the descendants of those who had been deported from the city after the Babylonian capture in 586 BC.

They were descendants of Syrian, Philistine, Phoenician, Judean,

and Israelite refugees who had been deported to the region by the Yava cigarette factory.

Rabbi Julian Jacobs, a member of Chief Rabbi's cabinet, said: "The Bible, being of divine origin, can stand on its own feet and does not require supportive evidence."

But the book — which is published by E.J. Brill in Leiden, the Netherlands — will offend some religious groups. Reverend Clive Calver, general director of the Evangelical Alliance, which claims 1.2 million supporters, said it was the beginning of "a new phase in attacks upon the authenticity of scripture" — The Independent.

The Israeli radio said Monday:

"The radio said the gunman said he fired after one of the Palestinians pointed what he thought was a weapon at him. The radio said the car did not belong to the Israeli. Neither the radio nor police said whether the dead man was armed. The Israeli was arrested and his gun confiscated."

Israel's police chief told Israelis in March after a wave of attacks by Palestinians on Jews that any Israeli licensed to carry a gun should do so.

(Continued from page 1)

Siege poses hardships for Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

security-wise, is a mistake politically and unbearable from a humane point of view," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

Arab shot dead

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Palestinians on final sprint to talks

(Continued from page 1)

would not solve the plight of the exiles.

The Israeli agreement to allow Mr. Husseini to join the negotiations has probably tipped the balance, but is only one element in a package expected to set the talks in motion April 20 after a four-month hiatus.

There are two other key elements in the package, U.S. government officials and diplomats say.

"First, there is the promise that Israel will put forward substantially new proposals on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories that go some way towards meeting Palestinian concerns."

Second, there is the prospect of a much more active U.S. role in the talks.

THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE CENTRE FIFTH CIRCLE

Russians scrabble for tobacco in city refuse dump

By Fiona Fleck

Reuter

MOSCOW — Mikhail Mokeyev wears a tattered pair of boots with holes in them and a mud-encrusted winter coat.

Once his winter clothes were new. Now they look like rags.

These are all he has and all he expects to have. He will never have enough money to buy new clothes again, he says.

"I worked for 40 years in a car factory. I was a specialist. Now look at me. I am like a beggar," says 60-year-old Mokeyev clutching a bag tied with string, crammed with other people's rubbish.

He had spent the whole day scrabbling for it in a rubbish dump at Mashkino outside the city.

"Our politicians can afford to buy cigarettes. But I have to come here for tobacco," he says bitterly.

Mr. Mokeyev is one of hundreds of people who come here to rummage in the rubbish for other people's cast-offs and collect tobacco dust dumped here daily by the Yava cigarette factory.

They say they cannot afford to buy Russian cigarettes any more at a minimum price of 60 roubles (eight U.S. cents) a pack. Here they can gather the dust and glean grains of tobacco for nothing.

The dump already has a reputation all over Moscow and the surrounding regions as a place where people never go home empty-handed. People come from all over the Moscow region and cities beyond such as Tver 160 kilometres away.

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

A few are down-and-outs who live in Moscow's squalid railway stations. But most of them are members of a new class of impoverished Russians who have been reduced to desperation by inflation.

They are pensioners like Mr. Mokeyev or people on low state salaries whose incomes fall far behind the new high prices.

Mr. Mokeyev lives with his wife and sister in a two-room flat in Zelenograd, outside Moscow, in a state pension.

But his and his wife's joint pension of 12,100 roubles (\$16) a month, he says, is only enough to keep the family on a diet of bread and milk.

Mr. Mokeyev has been coming here regularly for a year. He smoked some of the tobacco himself, rolled in makeshift cigarettes in torn squares of newspaper. The rest he sells on the street where he makes about 3,000 roubles (\$4) a month.

He gives this to his daughter, a nurse — a traditionally paid profession in Russia — who was abandoned by her husband and is struggling to bring up two children single-handed.

Workers from all over the former Soviet Union used to come to Mashkino to stay in holiday homes. Some say it was once one of the most beautiful places outside Moscow.

A couple of years ago a small firm bought the land and turned it into a private refuse dump, according to Foreman Anatoly Ivanov.

Today droves of people, hun-

gry and a swarm of scavengers swoop down on the tobacco greedily pouring the dust into sacks and canvas rucksacks.

"It's like gold," said taxi-driver Yuri. "It's worth so much money."

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WANTED

A Jordanian company is looking for a female secretary with following qualifications:

1. Jordanian nationality
2. A bachelor's or master's degree
3. At least 6 years experience in secretarial work, including 3 years at least at senior level.
4. Word processing skills and ability to operate PC software.
5. Fluent in English.

Those qualified to send their C.V. and a recent photo before 20/4/1993.

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EUROPEAN BASKETBALL FINALS

Strict security in bid to avoid repeat violence

ATHENS (R) — Strict security will be in force at the European Clubs' Basketball Championship finals in a bid to avoid a repeat of the violence that shamed the sport's last showpiece event.

Two Turkish players were attacked and injured in last month's Cup Winners' Cup final in Turin where Greek fans invaded the court after Aris Salomika beat SK Istanbul.

Aris have since been fined and banned from European competition for a year.

But with neighbours Paok Salomika reaching the final four of the champions' competition starting Tuesday, there are fears of more trouble from the volatile Greek home crowd.

Real Madrid's Arvidas Sabonis, one of the tournament stars, told the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*: "I'm worried that there may be real war in Athens."

Sabonis, a 2.2 metres tall Lithuanian, who has won Olympic gold and bronze medals, added: "I just hope one goes for my head with a hammer. With my height, I am an easy target."

"The international federation (FIBA) don't do much about it ... and won't until a player gets killed."

Munich-based FIBA warned the Greek Federation after the disgraceful scenes in Turin about them responsibility to ensure a trouble-free event in Athens.

All fans entering the 16,000 capacity "peace and friendship" stadium will be body-searched and stripped of anything which

can be thrown on the court, particularly bottles, coins, lighters and even cigarette packs. Around 1,000 specially trained police will be on duty.

About 6,000 pack fans are expected for Tuesday's semifinals when the Greek club play Italy's Benetton Treviso and Real Madrid meet Limoges of France.

Paok's allocation of tickets has been sold out for days. Club spokesman Makis Voutsides said:

"We have to watch where the tickets go because we fear fan trouble. The winner will probably meet Real Madrid who we believe will easily overcome Limoges," Voutsides said.

Pack will also rely on shooting guard Branislav Prelevic.

Failure not in Kukoc vocabulary

Run down the list of Toni Kukoc's basketball achievements and what you see is a near unblemished record.

If the Croat does not lead Benetton Treviso to the European Champion Clubs' title in Athens this week, it will be virtually the first time a major basketball title has eluded him.

The 23-year-old helped Yugoslavia to the World Championship in 1990 and for three years until 1991 led his club team Jugoplastika Split to three consecutive European club titles.

Whether he plays forward, centre or point guard, the gangly, 2.06-metre Kukoc is the focus and driving force of any team.

In the three-game quarter-final against Pesaro Kukoc scored an astonishing 95 points.

The first time I played against Salomika it was the most pressure I've ever felt under," he said. "You're playing not only against the guys on the court but against the 9,000 fans screaming at you in the gym."

With the basketball world, led by NBA champions Chicago Bulls, clamouring for his services last season, Kukoc chose to sign a six-year \$16 million contract with Treviso.

Benetton's success since Kukoc's arrival has been a double-edged sword for team owner Gilberto Benetton because it has only increased Chicago's interest.

The Bulls' general manager Jerry Krause has been on the phone regularly to Kukoc, trying to coax him over to Chicago.

But Kukoc says: "I'm looking to win something more with Benetton. That's my main goal at the moment."

Kukoc said the main reason he did not join Chicago last season is he was drafted by the Bulls in 1991 — was because of the outbreak of war in his home country.

"I was very preoccupied by that," he said. "My family is still living in Split and I wanted to be near them."

Kukoc and his team mates leave for Athens Monday for the most important few days in Treviso's history. The Italian club play Paok Salomika Tuesday for a place in Thursday's final.

Kukoc has witnessed first-hand the fanaticism of Greek fans when he played against Salomika of Sweden and Joginder Singh of

NAIROBI (AP) — Juha Kankkunen of Finland won the Safari Rally Monday to become the fourth driver to win the 41-year-old endurance test three times.

Kankkunen, driving a Toyota Celica turbo 4wd, had 3 hours, 54 minutes in penalty points.

Companier and teammate Markku Alen, also in a Toyota, had 4 hours, 3 minutes and Kenya's Ian Duncan, also in a Toyota, 5 hours, 24 minutes.

Kankkunen won the Safari Rally in 1985 and 1991. Shekhar Mehta of Kenya won the race four times and Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden and Joginder Singh of

Kenya won three times.

This year's 3,778-kilometre (2,342-mile) 342-mile route was divided into five legs, each split into sectors. Competitors were required to cover each sector within a specified time, and lost a point for every minute they were late. Stragglers were time barred.

The winner was the driver with the least penalty points.

Only 17 of the 44 starters finished the race. The rest were either time barred or withdrew with mechanical problems.

The contest is fourth of 13 in World Championship rallies and counts for the manufacturers and drivers' awards.

Sanchez Vicario beats Sabatini in final

FLORIDA (R) — Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the hottest player on the women's circuit, beat two-time defending champion Gabriela Sabatini 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 Sunday in the final of the \$375,000 Bausch Lomb Tennis Championships.

"I know I'm playing very well," said Sanchez Vicario after picking up her 10 career title.

"For sure, the players know that I'm in my best shape and hitting the ball very well. I'm number three, I'm strong and I'm consistent," the Spaniard added.

Sanchez Vicario trials fifth-ranked Sabatini 11-7 in Career meetings, but has now won their last four encounters.

The two-hour 45-minute final was a wonderful display of tennis on both sides of the net.

"I moved the ball very well, changed the pace, hit a lot of drop shots and went to the net," said Sanchez Vicario. "She didn't know what I was going to do."

After Sabatini, the second seed, won the first two games, Sanchez Vicario took control, winning the next eight for a 6-2, 2-0 lead.

Then Sabatini started to get more aggressive. The Argentine broke serve in the sixth and 12th game to push the match two a third set.

Despite slipping in the first game of the third set and needing a three-minute time-out to retape her right ankle, which she had injured earlier in the week, Sanchez Vicario was the fitter player at the end.

"I'm not thinking about that," said Sabatini, who took home \$30,000. "I'm not worried. I just need to play these kinds of matches and win them."

"If I was a little bit more strong I could've won the match," said Sabatini. "I was a little tired and won."

Sabatini was gunning for her first title since winning the 1992 Italian Open last May. She lost to Martina Navratilova in her only other final appearance since Italy at fielderstadt, Germany in October.

She is not concerned she has not visited the winner's circle in almost a year.

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Economy

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
BROKERS BANK COTTON ABBAS SHARJAH TELEPHONE: 6601270 / 6631700			
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 12/04/1993			
COMPANY'S NAME	OPENING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABRA BANK	18,505	132,500	132,000 132,150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	9,800	5,000	4,950 4,970
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	4,500	25,000	25,000
BANK OF JORDAN	8,700	25,000	25,000
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,200	1,950	1,100 1,100
DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	23,612	3,800	3,900 3,850
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	12,450	2,210	2,200 2,220
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	25,888	5,400	5,450 5,450
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1,044	4,500	4,500 4,520
BEST INVESTMENT FOR HOLDING	43,661	3,240	3,230 3,200
ABRA BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,912	5,200	5,200 5,200
ABRA BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,040	3,100	3,100 3,100
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	20,116	1,100	1,100 1,100
JORDAN INSURANCE	134,137	4,120	4,110 4,040
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	258,843	2,240	2,220 2,150
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE	25,491	5,200	5,200 5,270
ABRA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	256	6,650	6,580 6,590
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	72,148	1,100	1,100 1,100
INTERSTATE BANK FOR INVESTMENT	224,546	1,740	1,780 1,800
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	26,983	4,800	4,750 4,750
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT	18,499	3,250	3,250 3,250
JORDAN PETROLEUM RILES	3,065	1,950	1,980 1,960
JORDAN PETROLEUM MARYAN	1,000	4,200	4,200 4,200
JORDAN PETROLEUM	5,730	4,260	4,260 4,260
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	33,576	10,350	10,350 10,200
THE TANIAH INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1,478	1,100	1,100 1,100
ABRA INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING	38,465	6,100	6,100 6,050
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	7,562	5,700	5,700 5,700
JORDAN DAIRY	9,508	2,540	2,530 2,550
JORDAN LIPES MANUFACTURING	3,520	2,750	2,750 2,750
ABRA CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	50,105	2,100	2,000 2,000
SPINNING & WEAVING	40,314	3,240	3,230 3,220
INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT	22,742	2,740	2,740 2,700
JORDAN GLASS MANUFACTURERS	1,000	4,200	4,200 4,200
JORDAN INDIA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	454,017	12,450	12,750 12,800
ABRA INDUSTRIAL & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,000	4,200	4,200 4,200
ABRA ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	12,074	13,350	13,350 13,300
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13,934	9,810	9,800 9,800
ABRA INDUSTRIAL & TRADING	1,000	4,200	4,200 4,200
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	8,288	5,520	5,530 5,510
NETHERLANDS INVESTMENT	35,270	6,950	6,950 6,940
INTERSTATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,100	4,200	4,200 4,200
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,514	4,200	4,200 4,200
ALABIND INDUSTRIES	22,742	2,740	2,740 2,700
JORDAN PETROLEUM & INDUSTRIES	55,979	10,450	10,450 10,450
JORDAN PETROLEUM & INDUSTRIES	8,729	3,200	3,200 3,200
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWCIO	18,428	4,200	4,050 4,050
JORDAN COTTON WEAVING INDUSTRIES	45,120	8,250	8,950 8,930
ABRA COTTON & CHEMICALS	44,232	1,870	1,920 1,820
JORDAN KINATY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	133,872	8,340	8,320 8,290
GRAND TOTAL	2,615,201		
NO. OF EXCHANGED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	35550		
CHARTERS VOLING IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1 JD	48522	

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency			
New York Close Date 8/14/1993		Tokyo Midday Date 12/4/1993	
Sterling Pound* ...	1.5270	1.5370	
Deutsche Mark	1.6050	1.5997	
Swiss Franc	1.4760	1.4745	
French Franc	5.4760	5.4175 ***	
Japanese Yen	113.35	112.80	
European Currency Unit	1.1533 ...	1.2155 ***	
* USD per JPY ** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GST *** Singapore Opening.			
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date 12/4/1993			
Currency			
1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	
12 MTHS			
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.18	3.18
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.75	5.75
Deutsche Mark	8.12	7.81	7.37
Swiss Franc	5.12	4.93	4.75
French Franc	9.37	8.87	8.43
Japanese Yen	3.21	3.21	3.25
European Currency Unit	9.06	8.87	8.43
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Precious Metals Date 12/4/1993			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	
Gold	337.60	6.65	
* 24 Karat			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date 12/4/1993			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6660	0.6680	
Sterling Pound	1.0529	1.0562	
Deutsche Mark	0.4263	0.4304	
Swiss Franc	1	0.4646	
French Franc	1	0.1266	
Japanese Yen*	0.6072	0.6102	
Dutch Guilder	0.3810	0.3829	
Swedish Krona	0.0905	0.0910	
Italian Lira*	0.0438	0.0440	
Belgian Franc	0.02075	0.02085	
* Per 100			
Other Currencies Date 12/4/1993			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8010	1.8400	
Lebanese Lira*	0.03665	0.04050	
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1841	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2400	
Qatari Riyal	0.1859	0.1860	
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150	
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7600	
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1880	
Greek Drachma*	0.3095	0.3295	
Cypriot Pound	1.4235	1.4345	
* Per 100			
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market*			
Index	10/4/1993	Close	
All-Share	194.55	194.37	
Banking Sector	135.21	135.23	
Insurance Sector	214.46	214.46	
Industry Sector	276.79	276.34	
Services Sector	256.42	255.84	
* December 31, 1990 = 100			

Malaysia stops recruiting unskilled foreign labour

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — The government has asked employment agencies to stop recruiting unskilled workers from abroad, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said Monday.

Mr. Ghafar said 240,000 foreign workers who had registered to work here had yet to find jobs, and another 4,000 without work permits were being kept at detention centres.

The government has spent \$3.85 million over the past few months on 10 detention centre for illegal workers, he said.

Mr. Ghafar said work must be found for the registered foreigners before more could be allowed into the country.

Most of the foreign workers are Indonesians and Filipinos, but there are also Thais, Indians, Burmese, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis in Malaysia without jobs.

Mr. Ghafar said there are about 800,000 foreign workers in Malaysia, equally divided between west Malaysia on the Malay peninsula and the states of Sarawak and Sabah on Borneo island.

The government says the ban on recruitment only applies to unskilled workers for the agricultural, construction, manufacturing, tourism, logging and other industries, and not to skilled workers such as doctors and nurses.

Malaysia has a population of 18 million and a work force of about seven million. Unemployment is around four per cent.

Labour department officials say an annual economic growth rate of more than seven per cent and massive foreign investment has led to a massive influx of foreign workers over the past few years.

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S. African police seize suspected hit list after killing of Hani

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police found a suspected "hit list" of politicians and several guns in the home of a white man charged with killing top black leader Chris Hani.

Police Brig. Frans Malherbe said Monday the leader of the South African Communist Party was shot with a pistol stolen by right-wing white extremists from a military installation in 1990.

Mr. Hani's killing outside his home Saturday triggered fears of an angry backlash that could threaten crucial talks between black and white leaders on ending apartheid.

But government and African National Congress (ANC) leaders said they were determined to press ahead with talks. Leaders on both sides called for calm despite scattered outbreaks of violence following the killing.

Angry blacks at a protest in the Katlehong black township Monday burned a truck, threw stones and fired shots at journalists, hitting a car. No injuries were reported.

Two whites were burned to death by a black crowd and a third had part of his tongue cut out in black township outside Cape Town Sunday.

But police at the Lwandle township said Monday they were unsure if the attacks stemmed from the Hani killing. They reported the area calm overnight and Monday.

In a separate incident Sunday, the ANC accused police of firing on a small memorial service for Mr. Hani in Soweto, near Johannesburg, killing one person. Police Maj. Henriette Bester denied it was a memorial service and said officers fired on the crowd after people began throwing stones and shooting at them.

Police arrested Janusz Jakub



A South African youth walks away from a burning barricade in a traditionally white suburb of Cape Town. He was part of a group of students who were reportedly protesting the assassination Saturday of former South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani (AFP photo).

Wallus, 40, an immigrant from Poland shortly after Mr. Hani's killing. A pistol found in Mr. Wallus' car was identified as the alleged murder weapon, police said.

The pistol was part of a cache of weapons stolen by right-wing extremists from South African Air Force Headquarters in Pretoria in 1990, police said. Several weapons were found in Mr. Wallus' apartment, they said.

Police said a list of politicians and addresses was found in Mr. Wallus' apartment, but refused to give any of the names. People on

the list had been warned and offered police protection.

"This list includes the names of political leaders of various parties and organisations, but also of people not active in politics," a police statement said.

South African news reports have linked Mr. Wallus to neo-Nazi groups, but police say they cannot confirm the reports. A white supremacist group, the World Apartheid Movement, said it would provide Mr. Wallus with legal aid.

Mr. Wallus was a fanatical anti-Communist who left Poland be-

cause of his opposition to the Communist government, according to reports. He was described as "a loner."

Small white extremist groups say they are preparing for "a race war" rather than accept a multi-racial democracy. But the extreme right has rarely carried out any attacks despite incessant rhetoric.

Mr. Hani, 50, was perhaps the most popular ANC official after its president, Nelson Mandela. Many blacks revered him for his militant opposition to white minority rule.

AWACS surveillance planes with multi-national crews are monitoring the airspace over Bosnia to stop sorties by Yugoslavia's Serb-dominated military. The AWACS and some of the NATO fighter jets are being coordinated from an airbase in Vicenzo, where they took off Monday morning. Other fighter jets are on in northeast Italy or on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea.

Serbs have flown hundreds of sorties over Bosnia since the United Nations forbade the flights in October, according to U.N. reports. The flights have supported ethnic Serbs who rebelled against Bosnia's Muslim-led government a year ago when Bosnia's Muslim and ethnic Croat population voted to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Most of the Serb violations are being committed by low-flying

NATO moves to stop Serb warplanes; Serbs defiant

SARAJEVO (AP) — NATO warplanes took to the skies Monday to enforce a U.N. ban on Serbian military flights over war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

More than 50 U.S., French and Dutch fighters were deployed around the region to put Operation Deny Flight into effect. The mission began at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) and is the first time NATO has projected its might beyond alliance territory since it was founded in 1949.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) officials said their warplanes would challenge violators and order them back home. A shoot-down would be allowed only as a last resort.

Bosnian Serb Commander Gen. Ratko Mladic said the Western alliance had "no chance" of stopping his troops with the flight ban. He accused NATO allies of enforcing the ban as a prelude to using air power directly against the Serbs.

AWACS surveillance planes with multi-national crews are monitoring the airspace over Bosnia to stop sorties by Yugoslavia's Serb-dominated military. The AWACS and some of the NATO fighter jets are being coordinated from an airbase in Vicenzo, where they took off Monday morning. Other fighter jets are on in northeast Italy or on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea.

Serbs have flown hundreds of sorties over Bosnia since the United Nations forbade the flights in October, according to U.N. reports. The flights have supported ethnic Serbs who rebelled against Bosnia's Muslim-led government a year ago when Bosnia's Muslim and ethnic Croat population voted to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton's envoy to former Yugoslavia, Reginald Bartholomew, left Zagreb, Croatia, for Sarajevo for the first of three days of talks with Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian leaders.

Leaving Zagreb, he told the Associated Press he had a "clear objective to help the international effort to bring this crisis, this conflict to a settlement, and to encourage the Serbs to come to Nato."

Asked whether NATO jets could force Serbs to change tactics, Gen. Mladic said: "they have no chance."

Gen. Antun Tus, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's top military advisor, told Croatian radio it was too late for the no-fly zone to have any military effect.

"There will be more political than military results," Gen. Tus said. "In Bosnia-Herzegovina, planes are not so important.... This is the artillery and mortar war."

In a telephone interview with the AP Sunday, Gen. Mladic claimed that NATO has identified Serb ground positions as potential targets.

"If events take a turn for the worse, NATO plans to bring in 450 to 500 warplanes as reinforcements," he said, quoting what he claimed were "sources close to Nato."

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6th Pakistani minister quits cabinet

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani Production Minister Jam Masroor Ali resigned Monday, joining a cabinet exodus that threatens to topple the fragile coalition government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Ali criticised what he called Mr. Sharif's autocratic style of

propeller planes. At least 134,000 people, and as many as 200,000, have been reported killed or missing since the war broke out. More than 2 million Bosnians have been turned into refugees, many of them Muslims routed from their homes in the so-called "ethnic cleansing" campaign of killing, rape and intimidation used to purge areas of different ethnic groups.

Gen. Mladic and a top Croatian general both said that enforcement of the flight ban will have little effect.

Serbs have used mainly land forces to capture 70 per cent of Bosnia in the last year and have been reported using low-flying helicopters over short distances to transport troops.

U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Boorda said Monday that low clouds over Bosnia's mountainous terrain could also complicate the mission. He spoke at a military briefing in Vicenza.

Serbs have rejected an international peace that would partition Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces along mainly ethnic lines because it would end their plans to unite conquered Bosnian and Croatian lands with Serbia proper.

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Hanoi report hints at deception on PoWs

NEW YORK (R) — A secret report written in 1972 by a North Vietnamese general said hundreds more U.S. prisoners of war were being held by Hanoi than were officially accounted for at the time, the New York Times reported Monday.

The newspaper, in a report from Moscow, said the document had been delivered to the Communist Party politburo in Hanoi in September 1972. A copy was discovered in Moscow in the arc-

hives of the Soviet Communist Party.

It said the document, which was authenticated by experts, showed that North Vietnam was holding 1,205 U.S. prisoners at a time when officials were saying the number was only 368.

The New York Times quoted experts as saying the document was a "smoking gun" which proved Hanoi had been withholding information about the fate of U.S. prisoners of war.

More than 2,000 Americans remain listed as missing in action or unaccounted for after the war, which ended in 1975.

The secret north Vietnamese document, which was discovered in Moscow earlier this year by a U.S. researcher, gives a detailed account of 1,205 prisoners held in 11 North Vietnamese prisons in the autumn of 1972, at a time when peace talks were under way in Paris. Its author was named as General Tran Van Quang.

5 prisoners dead, 8 guards taken hostage in Ohio prison riot

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (R) — Five prisoners were beaten to death by fellow inmates and eight guards were taken hostage during violence at a prison in Ohio, officials said Monday.

Mr. Ali was the sixth minister to submit his resignation to President Ghulam Ishaq Kahn in just over two weeks, aggravating a

crisis that could prompt the president to use his power to dissolve parliament.

The string of resignations coincides with a bitter feud between Mr. Sharif and the 78-year-old Ishaq Khan over an attempt by the prime minister to curb the president's powers.

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